

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The specification was amended to indicate the status of the parent applications and a petition was filed for acceptance of an unintentionally delayed claim for priority in an earlier-filed paper.

Claim 51 has been amended in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner.

With respect to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, applicant has amended claim 4 to remove the word "sustained." Claims 8, 9, 49, 52, 53 and 56 have been amended by removing the words "effective amounts of" from the preambles of those claims. These amendments do not reduce the scope of the claims. Moreover, each of claims 8, 9, 49, 52, 53 and 56 end with a "wherein" limitation or a "whereby" clause that state what the amounts are effective to do.

With respect to the claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102, the amendment described above removes the Lovell reference (U.S. Patent No. 7,048,781) from the prior art. Therefore, the claims are not anticipated by that Lovell reference.

With respect to the double patenting rejection, claims 49 and 56 are amended to avoid the rejection. The claims cited in U.S. Patent No. 6,719,828 do not teach polysulfide ions or thiocarbonate ions.

Based on the above showings, the applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees under 37 CFR 1.16 and 1.17 which may be required during the entire pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 500593.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: 

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